

FAST FACTS

McKinney-Vento Primary Nighttime Residencies That Qualify as Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as *“individuals that lacks a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence.”* Student homeless determinations are made on a case-by-case basis by the district’s homeless liaison by examining the living arrangement of each student as defined by fixed, regular, and adequate and the four residential categories of unsheltered, doubled-up, hotel/motel, and sheltered:

Fixed:

- A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- Has a fixed residence therein, as distinguished from an occasional lodger or visitor.
- The place where a person has his true fixed permanent home and principal establishment, and to which place he has, whenever he is absent, the intention of returning, and from which he has no present intention of moving.”

Regular:

- Normal, standard. Constituted, conducted, or done in conformity with established or prescribed usages, rules, or discipline. Recurring, attending, or functioning at fixed or uniform intervals.
- Consistent.
- A regular residence is one which is used on a regular and nightly basis.
- Habitual: By habit; constant; customary, accustomed, usual; common; ordinary; regular; familiar.

Adequate:

- Sufficient for a specific requirement. Lawfully and reasonably sufficient.
- Fully sufficient; equal to what is required; lawfully and reasonably sufficient.
- An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Unsheltered: A primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; vehicles, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings. This also includes children or youth abandoned in hospitals or unaccompanied youth.

The term **unaccompanied youth** includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include youth living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing and children and youth denied housing by their families -sometimes referred to as “throwaway” children and youth, and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers, who have no other housing available.

Doubled-Up: Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, unavailable housing, or a similar reason.

Hotel/Motel: Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

Sheltered: Include, but not limited to domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, awaiting foster care placement, or short-term government/private assisted transitional shelters (usually 30-90 days) while waiting for more permanent shelter to become available. Transitional housing is government/private assisted housing for people who are ready to move beyond emergency shelter into a more independent living situation allowing them to further develop the stability, confidence, and coping skills needed to sustain permanent housing (services for as long as 2 years).

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding this Fast Facts, please contact the Division of Student Support & Innovation at (888) 605-1951.